AIIMS like hospital in Tamil Nadu

2944. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government announced two years back that an AIIMS like hospital in Tamil Nadu will be established at Madurai;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such information is available with the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) 'Health' being State subject, it is for the State Govternment concerned to provide/establish health care facilities to meet the need of the people.

Purchase of drugs from unregistered firms by MSO

2945. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Drugs bought by Government under Scanner" which appeared in the Times of India, dated the 29th January, 2002, highlighting that spurious drugs valued at about Rs. 100 crores per year continue to be purchased by the Medical Stores Organisation through unregistered drug firms;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to adopt more stringent, transparent and fool-proof procedure to procure only genuine drugs for the national health system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is true that procurement through MSO has come down in the last few years, but the reason was that the formulary had not been approved. It may be mentioned that the formulary for MSO/CGHS has now been approved.

The procedure for registration of firms is governed by the Medical Store's Manual and the orders issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Drugs from unregistered firms are not purchased. Only during emergencies like flood, earthquake cyclone etc. drugs may have to be procured from unregistered firms to meet urgent requirement with the permission of the competent authority, if registered firms are not forthcoming.

It is not correct to say that samples are sent by the firms themselves. Drugs samples are picked up randomly, coded and sent to two different Government approved laboratories for testing. Those drugs which fail the test are never supplied.

Any complaint with regard to the irregularities in procedures in the procurement of drugs through Medical Stores is immediately got enquired into for fixing responsibility on the officials concerned and departmental proceedings are initiated. If any case of supply of sub-standard drugs comes to notice, immediate action is taken to return the available stock to the supplier firm to get replacements.

Ban on anti-smoking drugs

2946. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of multi-national